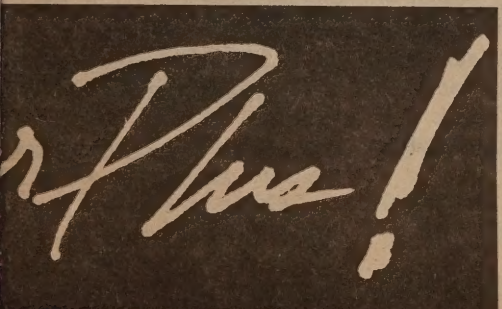
pressure for change; unfortunately, their chances of success aren't good. The communists have been willing to kill millions of people in the past to consolidate their hold on power. They are likely to resort to armed violence and/or sentences to "re-education camps" to crush the demonstrators once western news cameras have moved on from Bejing.

The collectivist philosophy communists espouse asserts that the individual is insignificant, a mere tool to be used or sacrificed, whichever will serve the collectivist state. This is why meaningful reform must go beyond mere democracy. A democratically elected despot is still a despot. A right to a free press is hollow indeed if the government owns the printing presses. What is freedom of religion when the state owns the churches and a permit is required before you hold services? Personal freedom doesn't mean much if the State can control whether or not you can work to support yourself and your family.

The communists know that if you control the peoples livelihood you can control their whole life. That's why they always starved the peasants until they gave up their independent family farms to work on state communes



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"There is no other alternative to Totalitarian slavery than Liberty."—Ludwig von Mises, 1952.

Steven Becker, Rochester

Bare chests and male privilege

New York State Statute 245.01 discriminates against women by requiring us to wear more clothes than men are required to wear. If bare chests are an offensive sight on city streets, in parks, and on beaches, then let's have a law prohibiting bare chests, and let's have it apply to everyone. Using biological differences as a justification for social and legal inequality is inexcusable.

This law will be continually defied by all women who see its deviousness. We refuse to go along with laws which limit our physical freedom and require "modesty" from women only, as if that is some innate female quality.

The same specious reasoning of (mostly male) legislators and judges to enforce this archaic statute continues to make possible *any* and *all exceptions* to equal rights.

Male privilege is so commonplace that we often don't even *recognize* it as such, let alone dare to register a complaint. We've been well trained to accept double standards without question. Ever so slowly, it's becoming acceptable—to some, at least—to think that women might be entitled to equal education, good jobs, and equal pay. "But God forbid we should _____." That *blank* is the point at which there is some behavior in which women (or another oppressed group) might *dare* to participate. Topfree equality is one of the issues that fills the blank.

It is precisely these blanks—these points of resistance—that require new vision to break the chain of injustice; only then can we finally embrace the spirit and principles of true equality for *everyone*.

At 8 p.m. on June 20, at 237 Vassar Street, there will be a planning meeting for topfree-equality demonstrations. Women and friends are welcome.

Kathie Reilly, Rochester

Citey June 15 '89